

Timeline of Congressman Larson's Efforts on Coltsville

2000: The Hartford Courant organizes a bus trip for Congressman Larson, Senators Dodd and Lieberman to Lowell, MA to see the Lowell mills that had recently been made into a National Park with help from US Senator Paul Tsongas.

May 15, 2002: Congressman Larson, Senators Dodd and Lieberman introduce the Coltsville Study Act which would study the possibility of including Hartford's historic Coltsville property in the National Park System.

April 8, 2003: The National Park Service testifies in support of the Coltsville Study Act, sponsored by Congressman Larson. The Act is later passed by the full House.

October 7, 2003: President George W. Bush signs the Coltsville Study Act into law.

October 20, 2004: Congressman Larson, Senators Dodd and Lieberman send a letter in advance of the Public Scoping Meeting as part of the Coltsville Special Resource Study - led by the National Park Service - in support of Coltsville's inclusion in the National Park System.

December 5, 2007: Congressman Larson testifies in front of the National Park Service Commission in support of Coltsville's designation as a National Historic Landmark.

October 14, 2008: Secretary of the Interior, Dirk Kempthorne, announces that Coltsville has been officially named a National Historic Landmark.

November 2008: The Coltsville Visitor Experience Study is published intended to be used by the NPS as a guidebook for implementation of community recommendations for a National Park in the Coltsville Historic District. The study outlines three scenarios under which Coltsville could be opened and interpreted as a National Park, what the visitor experience would be like, and associated costs. The study was initiated by the Ad Hoc Committee, funded by the state through the CT Commission on Culture and Tourism and commissioned by the CT Trust for Historic Preservation.

2009: The National Park Service releases the Special Resource Study and determines that Coltsville is both nationally significant and is suitable for National Park designation.

April 22, 2010: Congressman Larson and Senator Dodd introduce legislation to designate Coltsville as a National Historical Park.

September 22, 2010: H.R. 5131, the Coltsville National Historic Park Act is brought to the floor under the suspension calendar. The vote is 215-174 but falls short of the two-thirds necessary for passage.

July 12, 2011: Congressman Larson and Senator Lieberman reintroduce Coltsville National Historical Park Act.

September 24, 2011: Interior Secretary Salazar tours the Coltsville Historic District with Congressman Larson, Senator Blumenthal, and Governor Malloy. Secretary Salazar visits Coltsville Historic District and calls Coltsville “a great candidate for inclusion into the National Park System” while pledging to work towards achieving that designation.

October-December, 2011: Coltsville receives subcommittee hearings in the House and Senate. The National Park Service testifies in favor of the legislation. No further action is taken in the 112th Congress.

March 19, 2013: Congressman Larson and Senators Blumenthal and Murphy reintroduce the Coltsville National Historical Park Act.

April 24, 2013: Coltsville legislation receives a subcommittee hearing in the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee where the National Park Service testifies in support of the bill.

February 27, 2014: The Coltsville National Historical Park Act, H.R. 1259, is favorably reported out of the Natural Resources Committee by unanimous consent.

December 2, 2014: The NDAA (National Defense Authorization Act) is filed in the House with Coltsville included as Section 3032.

December 4, 2014: The NDAA passes in the House 300 – 119 with Coltsville included in the public lands title. Later that month, the Act passes the full Senate and heads to the President’s desk.